

The College Student Relief Act of 2007 cuts interest rates in half phased in over 5 years starting July 1, 2007.

This proposal will provide debt relief for over five million students and families by cutting interest rates in half for undergraduate borrowers of subsidized loans.

In keeping with our promise to be fiscally responsible, this bill provides offsets in full compliance with our newly passed PAYGO rules.

Madam speaker, as you know college affordability is one of the most important issues facing students and families. With the significant increases in tuition over the last five years our nation's students and families will finally get some much needed help with their student loans.

Millions of college students and parents of college students are struggling to come up with the financial resources to pay for college.

And many would-be students—as many as 200,000 per year—are choosing to delay or forgo attending college altogether because they can't afford it.

This debt problem affects all of us. Public service professions like teaching are suffering, because graduates cannot manage their college debt on public service salaries. Nearly a quarter of recent college graduates have too much debt to manage on a starting teacher's salary.

This poses a serious threat not just to students and families, but to our Nation's economy and to the future of our workforce.

Today, we are finally taking our Nation's students and families in a New Direction by making college affordability a top priority.

Once fully phased in, these cuts will save the typical borrower with \$13,800 in needbased federal loan debt roughly \$4,400 over the life of their loan.

In my home State of California, this bill will save the typical borrower \$4,830 over the life of their loan.

This will be an important first step towards making college more affordable and accessible for millions of low-income and middle class students.

As Chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, one of our top priorities will be to continue to lower college costs for all qualified students.

I look forward to seeing this bill pass through the House with overwhelming support and bringing help to our students and families.

WISE WORDS ON THE ECONOMY
FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE
NEW YORK FED

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Tim Geithner, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, combined economic and political wisdom in a recent speech to the Council on Foreign Relations in which, according to the report of the speech in the Financial Times, he told that influential audience “that the ‘political challenge’ of sustaining support for integrating global economic integration ‘may be the most important economic challenge of our time.’”

Mr. Geithner came to his current position with significant experience in the Treasury De-

partment during the Clinton Administration, which makes him very well-positioned to understand how economic and political forces interact, and even more important, how they should interact if we are to achieve what is our national goal economically—significant growth that is widely shared.

I very much appreciate Mr. Geithner's thoughtful words, and I hope that people concerned about economic growth will accept the validity of his point so that we can all act together accordingly.

[From the Financial Times]

WAGES GAP ‘UNDERMINES SUPPORT FOR FREE
TRADE’

(By Krishna Guha in Washington)

The widening gap between the rich and middle-class Americans is undermining political support for free trade in the US, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, warned yesterday.

Tim Geithner told the Council on Foreign Relations that the “political challenge” of sustaining support for further global economic integration “may be the most important economic challenge of our time.”

The New York Fed chief also warned that the inflow of surplus savings from abroad could be distorting US asset prices and keeping risk premiums artificially low across financial markets.

His comments were made amid growing concern in US political and business circles over the risk of a populist backlash against free trade caused by rising inequality and a protracted period of stagnation in median wages—the wages earned by the average US worker.

While recent data show real wage growth has at last picked up, many economists fear this could be short-lived.

Mr. Geithner said maintaining support for open markets would be made more difficult “because of what has happened to the distribution of income and economic insecurity”.

He cited as big political problems the “long-term increase in income inequality”, the “slow pace of growth in real wages for the middle quintiles of the population”, increased volatility in income and the greater exposure of families to risks involved in financing retirement and healthcare.

Echoing views expressed by Larry Summers, his former boss as Treasury secretary in the Clinton administration, Mr. Geithner said it was “not enough to explain that globalisation is inevitable” and protectionist policies were self-defeating.

Better education and an improved safety net were a “necessary part of the solution to this challenge”. But, he warned, “these reforms will have a long fuse and they may not yield the hoped-for increase in support”.

Mr. Geithner cautioned that the low level of risk premiums across asset markets was “unusual” and might not prove lasting.

He said there were many sound reasons why risk premiums might be low, including better monetary policy, strong underlying productivity growth and better risk-sharing across more globally integrated financial markets.

But he warned that the inflow of surplus savings from abroad—including “very substantial official accumulation of dollar reserves” by countries seeking to maintain fixed exchange rates—could be distorting asset prices, sending the wrong signals to savers and investors.

Mr. Geithner said these forces were “surely transitory” but could “mask or dampen the effect on risk premiums in financial markets that we might otherwise expect”, given the huge US trade deficit and its long-term fiscal challenges.

IN HONOR OF SCOTT HASKINS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Scott Haskins on successfully swimming the English Channel. It is considered one of the most challenging swims in the world. This has been accomplished by fewer than 850 swimmers. Scott, a California native, became the first in the Haskins family to swim the English Channel.

Scott Haskins was born on July 3, 1964. His father Sam Haskins, my first cousin, and mother Judy Chapman Haskins live in the San Francisco Bay area. Scott has a sister Eliza and brother John, and is married to wife Elizabeth “Timmie” Friend.

Scott learned to swim at the age of 4 in a swimming pool and began swimming in the ocean at the age of 5. Scott swam butterfly and freestyle events competitively from age 11 to 20. He first began swimming open water events in 1990—mostly one and two mile swims in the San Francisco Bay Area. Scott swam his first long distance open water swim in 1994.

In 1995, Scott achieved the level of All American Long Distance Swimmer with the U.S. Masters Swimming in 1995 and 1996. On August 3, 1996, Scott swam around the island of Manhattan, a distance of 28.5 miles.

In 2006, Scott trained for 6 months at the Dolphin Club in San Francisco, California. His training included daily swimming as well as a 6-hour swim, an 8-hour swim, and a 10-hour swim in preparation to swim the English Channel.

On August 16th, with brother John on board the boat *Galivant*, Scott began to swim across the English Channel toward France. Scott finished with an official time of 10 hours and 25 minutes. Scott's time is in the top 18 percent of the fastest Channel swims.

To celebrate his great accomplishment, Scott with his family at his side, went to a tavern in Dover, England that is frequented by swimmers and a place where many have “signed in” on the walls and ceiling after completing their Channel swims. Scott also “signed in” on the ceiling next to the other Channel swimmers from San Francisco's Dolphin Club.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate Scott Haskins on successfully swimming the English Channel and to recognize him for this outstanding achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WAYNE T. GILCREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 12, 2007

Mr. GILCREST. Madam Speaker, please let the record show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 20, I would have voted “aye.”